

Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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TRIP LIMIT REDUCTION FOR THE HOOK-AND-LINE FISHERY FOR GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL IN THE FLORIDA WEST COAST SOUTHERN SUB-ZONE

NMFS has determined that 75 percent of the 520,312 lb quota (390,234 lb) for Gulf group king mackerel for vessels using hook-and-line gear in the southern Florida west coast subzone will be reached on March 10, 2002. Accordingly, a 500-lb trip limit applies to vessels in the commercial hook-and-line fishery for king mackerel in or from the EEZ in the southern Florida west coast subzone effective 12:01 a.m., local time, March 11, 2002. The 500-lb trip limit will remain in effect until the fishery closes or until the end of the current fishing year (June 30, 2002), whichever occurs first.

From November 1 through March 31, the Florida west coast southern subzone is that part of the eastern zone south and west of 25°20.4' N. latitude (a line directly east from the Miami-Dade County, FL, boundary) and which extends south and west from 25°20.4' N. latitude to 26°19.8' N. latitude (a line directly west from the Lee/Collier County, FL, boundary). In other words, the the area off Collier and Monroe Counties. From April 1 through October 31, the southern subzone is that part of the Florida west coast subzone which is off Collier County.